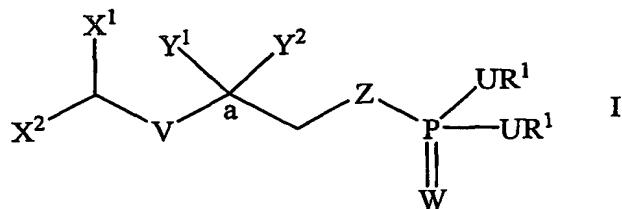


What is claimed is:

1. A compound having the formula I



wherein

X¹, X², Y¹, and Y² comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, OR<sup>2</sup>, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>2</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, or NC(O)R<sup>3</sup>;

each U comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or NR<sup>1</sup>;

V is not present or when V is present, V comprises oxygen or sulfur;

W comprises oxygen or sulfur;

Z comprises oxygen, sulfur, NR<sup>1</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub>, CHF, CF<sub>2</sub>, or CHOR<sup>2</sup>;

each R<sup>1</sup> comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both R<sup>1</sup> form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

R<sup>2</sup> comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein when Y¹ and Y² are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon a is either substantially R or substantially S, and

wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate, and

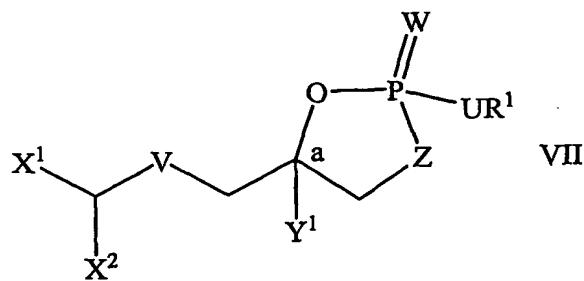
wherein when V is not present, W is oxygen, X¹ and Y¹ are hydrogen, and X²

is hydroxyl, then Y<sup>2</sup> is not hydroxyl.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein each U and W comprises oxygen and V is not present.
3. The compound of claim 2, wherein Z comprises oxygen, X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, and X<sup>2</sup> comprises fluorine.
4. The compound of claim 3, wherein Y<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, Y<sup>2</sup> comprises OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, and R<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen.
5. The compound of claim 4, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is an oleate group or a palmitate group.
6. The compound of claim 2, wherein Z comprises oxygen, Y<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, and Y<sup>2</sup> comprises fluorine.
7. The compound of claim 6, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, X<sup>2</sup> comprises OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, and each R<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen.
8. The compound of claim 2, wherein Z comprises CHF, Y<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, and Y<sup>2</sup> comprises a hydroxyl group.
9. The compound of claim 8, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, X<sup>2</sup> comprises OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, and each R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen.
10. The compound of claim 9, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises an oleate group or a palmitate group.
11. The compound of claim 8, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, X<sup>2</sup> is OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, and each R<sup>1</sup> comprises ethyl.
12. The compound of claim 8, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, X<sup>2</sup> comprises a silyl group or an alkyl group, and each R<sup>1</sup> comprises ethyl.
13. The compound of claim 2, wherein Z comprises CHF, Y<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, and Y<sup>2</sup> comprises an alkyl group.

14. The compound of claim 13, wherein  $X^1$  comprises hydrogen,  $X^2$  comprises a silyl group, a hydroxyl group, or  $OC(O)R^3$ , wherein  $R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, and each  $R^1$  comprises ethyl or each  $R^1$  comprises hydrogen.
15. The compound of claim 2, wherein  $Z$  comprises  $CHF$ ,  $Y^1$  comprises hydrogen, and  $Y^2$  comprises an  $OC(O)R^3$ , wherein  $R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group.
16. The compound of claim 15, wherein  $X^1$  comprises hydrogen,  $X^2$  comprises an alkyl group, and each  $R^1$  comprises ethyl or each  $R^1$  comprises hydrogen.
17. The compound of claim 2, wherein  $Z$  comprises  $CF_2$ .
18. The compound of claim 17, wherein  $Y^1$  comprises hydrogen,  $Y^2$  comprises  $OC(O)R^3$ , wherein  $R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, and each  $R^1$  comprises an ethyl group or a sodium ion.
19. The compound of claim 18, wherein  $X^1$  comprises hydrogen and  $X^2$  comprises  $OH$  or  $OC(O)R^3$ , wherein  $R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group.
20. The compound of claim 17, wherein  $X^1$  comprises hydrogen,  $X^2$  is  $OC(O)R^3$ , wherein  $R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, and each  $R^1$  comprises an ethyl group or a sodium ion.
21. The compound of claim 20, wherein  $Y^1$  comprises hydrogen and  $Y^2$  comprises  $OH$  or  $OC(O)R^3$ , wherein  $R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group.
22. The compound of claim 2, wherein  $Z$  comprises  $CH_2$ .
23. The compound of claim 22, wherein  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  comprise fluorine.
24. The compound of claim 23, wherein  $Y^1$  comprises hydrogen, and  $Y^2$  comprises a hydroxyl group,  $OR^2$ , or  $OC(O)R^3$ .
25. The compound of claim 24, wherein each  $R^1$  comprises hydrogen or a methyl group.

26. The compound of claim 2, wherein Z comprises oxygen, Y<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, and Y<sup>2</sup> comprises OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>2</sup>, wherein R<sup>2</sup> comprises hydrogen or a protecting group.
27. The compound of claim 26, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen and X<sup>2</sup> comprises OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
28. The compound of claim 27, wherein each R<sup>1</sup> comprises a methyl group or hydrogen.
29. The compound of claim 26, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen and X<sup>2</sup> comprises OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>2</sup>, wherein R<sup>2</sup> comprises hydrogen or a protecting group.
30. The compound of claim 29, wherein Y<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen and Y<sup>2</sup> comprises OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
31. The compound of claim 30, wherein each R<sup>1</sup> comprises a methyl group or hydrogen.
32. A compound having the formula VII



wherein

X<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>2</sup>, and Y<sup>1</sup> comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, OR<sup>2</sup>, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>2</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, or NC(O)R<sup>3</sup>;

U comprises oxygen, sulfur, or NR<sup>1</sup>;

V is not present or when V is present, V comprises oxygen or sulfur;

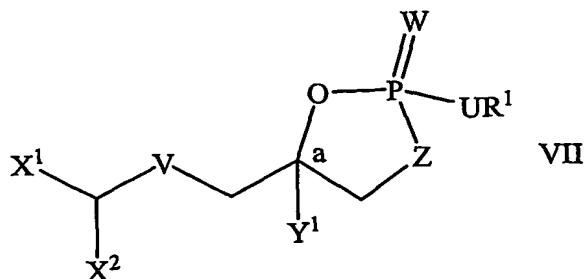
W comprises oxygen or sulfur;

Z comprises oxygen, sulfur, NR<sup>1</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub>, CHF, CF<sub>2</sub>, or CHOR<sup>2</sup>; each R<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, or a cationic counterion; R<sup>2</sup> comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group; R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group; or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, wherein the stereochemistry at carbon a is either substantially R or substantially S, wherein when W is oxygen, V is not present, X<sup>1</sup> and Y<sup>1</sup> are hydrogen, and X<sup>2</sup> is OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, then Z is not CH<sub>2</sub> or oxygen.

33. The compound of claim 32, wherein Y<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen and Z comprises CHF, CF<sub>2</sub>, or CH<sub>2</sub>.
34. The compound of claim 33, wherein Z comprises CHF, each U comprises oxygen, and W comprises oxygen.
35. The compound of claim 34, wherein V is not present and R<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen or a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
36. The compound of claim 35, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen and X<sup>2</sup> comprises OH or OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
37. The compound of claim 36, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises an oleate group or a palmitate group.
38. The compound of claim 32, wherein Z comprises CF<sub>2</sub>, each U comprises oxygen, and W comprises oxygen.
39. The compound of claim 38, wherein V is not present and R<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen or a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.

40. The compound of claim 39, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen and X<sup>2</sup> comprises OH or OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
41. The compound of claim 40, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises an oleate group or a palmitate group.
42. The compound of claim 41, wherein Z comprises CHF or CF<sub>2</sub>, each U comprises oxygen, and W comprises oxygen.
43. The compound of claim 42, wherein V comprises oxygen and R<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen or a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
44. The compound of claim 43, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen and X<sup>2</sup> comprises OH or OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
45. The compound of claim 44, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises an oleate group or a palmitate group.
46. The compound of claim 32, wherein Z comprises CH<sub>2</sub>, each U comprises oxygen, and W comprises oxygen.
47. The compound of claim 46, wherein V is not present and R<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen or a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
48. The compound of claim 47, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen and X<sup>2</sup> comprises OH or OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
49. The compound of claim 48, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises an oleate group or a palmitate group.
50. The compound of claim 46, wherein V comprises oxygen and R<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen or a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
51. The compound of claim 50, wherein X<sup>1</sup> comprises hydrogen and X<sup>2</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group.
52. The compound of claim 51, wherein R<sup>3</sup> comprises an oleate group or a palmitate group.

53. The compound of claim 32, wherein Z comprises  $\text{CH}_2$ , each U comprises oxygen, and W comprises sulfur.
54. The compound of claim 53, wherein V is not present and  $\text{R}^1$  comprises hydrogen or a branched or straight chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl group.
55. The compound of claim 54, wherein  $\text{X}^1$  comprises hydrogen and  $\text{X}^2$  comprises OH or  $\text{OC(O)R}^3$ , wherein  $\text{R}^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl group.
56. The compound of claim 55, wherein  $\text{R}^3$  comprises an oleate group or a palmitate group.
57. The compound of claim 32, wherein Z comprises sulfur, each U comprises oxygen, and W comprises oxygen.
58. The compound of claim 57, wherein V is not present and  $\text{R}^1$  comprises hydrogen or a branched or straight chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl group.
59. The compound of claim 58, wherein  $\text{X}^1$  comprises hydrogen and  $\text{X}^2$  comprises OH or  $\text{OC(O)R}^3$ , wherein  $\text{R}^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl group.
60. The compound of claim 59, wherein  $\text{R}^3$  comprises an oleate group or a palmitate group.
61. The compound of claim 57, wherein V comprises oxygen and  $\text{R}^1$  comprises hydrogen or a branched or straight chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl group.
62. The compound of claim 61, wherein  $\text{X}^1$  comprises hydrogen and  $\text{X}^2$  comprises OH or  $\text{OC(O)R}^3$ , wherein  $\text{R}^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl group.
63. The compound of claim 62, wherein  $\text{R}^3$  comprises an oleate group or a palmitate group.
64. A compound having the formula VII



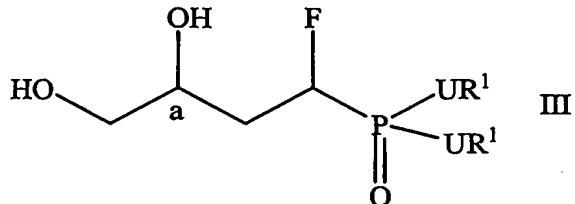
wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ , and  $Y^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ;  
 $U$  comprises oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;  
 $V$  is not present or when  $V$  is present,  $V$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;  
 $W$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;  
 $Z$  comprises sulfur,  $NR^1$ ,  $CHF$ ,  $CF_2$ , or  $CHOR^2$ ;  
each  $R^1$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, or a cationic counterion;  
 $R^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;  
 $R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group;  
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,  
wherein the stereochemistry at carbon  $a$  is either substantially R or substantially S.

65. The compound of claims 1-64, wherein the stereochemistry at carbon  $a$  is substantially R.
66. The compound of claims 1-64, wherein the stereochemistry at carbon  $a$  is substantially S.

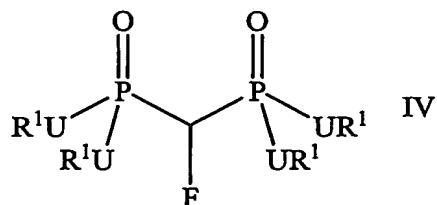
67. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable compound and the compound of claims 1-66.

68. A method for preparing a compound having the formula III

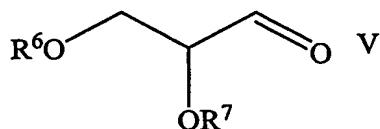


wherein each R<sup>1</sup> comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both R<sup>1</sup> form a cyclic or heterocyclic group, and  
 each U comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or NR<sup>1</sup>; and  
 the stereochemistry at carbon a is substantially R or substantially S,  
 or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,  
 comprising

(a) reacting a compound having the formula IV



with a compound having the formula V

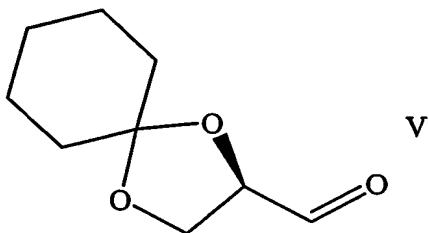


wherein R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are protecting groups,  
 in the presence of a base;

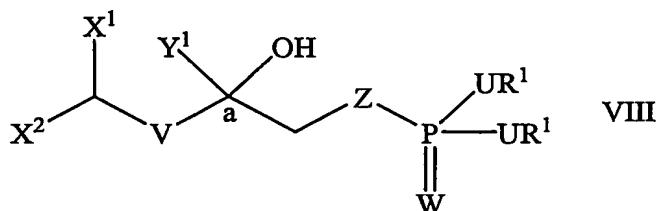
(b) hydrogenating the compound produced in step (a); and  
 (c) deprotecting the compound produced in step (b) to produce a compound having the formula II.

69. The method of claim 68, wherein the stereochemistry at carbon is substantially S.

70. The method of claim 68, wherein the compound having the formula V comprises



71. A method for preparing the compound of claims 32-66, comprising reacting a compound having the formula VIII



wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ , and  $Y^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ;

each U comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;

$V$  is not present or when  $V$  is present,  $V$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$W$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$Z$  comprises oxygen, sulfur,  $NR^1$ ,  $CH_2$ ,  $CHF$ ,  $CF_2$ , or  $CHOR^2$ ;

each  $R^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both  $R^1$  form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

$R^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a

heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

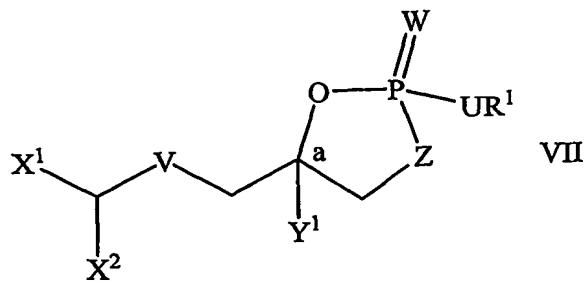
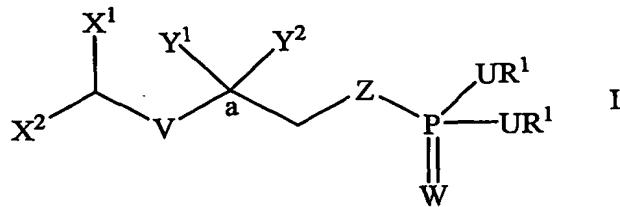
$R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group;

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein the stereochemistry at carbon  $a$  is either substantially R or substantially S,

with a dehydrating agent.

72. The method of claim 71, wherein the dehydrating agent comprises an organic acid or dicyclohexylcarbodiimide.
73. A method for improving wound healing in a subject in need of such improvement, comprising contacting the wound of a mammal with a compound having the formula I or VII or a pharmaceutical composition thereof

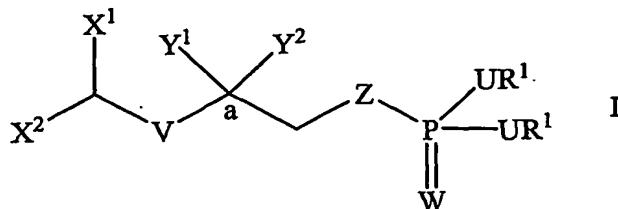


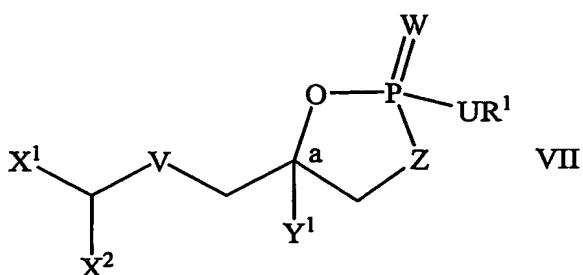
wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,

$\text{OR}^2$ ,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OR}^2$ ,  $\text{OC(O)R}^3$ , or  $\text{NC(O)R}^3$ ;  
 each  $\text{U}$  comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $\text{NR}^1$ ;  
 $\text{V}$  is not present or when  $\text{V}$  is present,  $\text{V}$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;  
 $\text{W}$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;  
 $\text{Z}$  comprises oxygen, sulfur,  $\text{NR}^1$ ,  $\text{CH}_2$ ,  $\text{CHF}$ ,  $\text{CF}_2$ , or  $\text{CHOR}^2$ ;  
 each  $\text{R}^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight  
 chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both  $\text{R}^1$  form a  
 cyclic or heterocyclic group;  
 $\text{R}^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl  
 group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a  
 heteroaryl group or a protecting group;  
 $\text{R}^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl group, a  
 cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl  
 group,  
 or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,  
 wherein when  $\text{Y}^1$  and  $\text{Y}^2$  in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry  
 at carbon  $\text{a}$  is either substantially R or substantially S, and  
 wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-  
 phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate.

74. A method for treating or preventing in a subject a disease comprising  
 administering to the subject a compound having the formula I or VII or a  
 pharmaceutical composition thereof





wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ;

each  $U$  comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;

$V$  is not present or when  $V$  is present,  $V$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$W$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$Z$  comprises oxygen, sulfur,  $NR^1$ ,  $CH_2$ ,  $CHF$ ,  $CF_2$ , or  $CHOR^2$ ;

each  $R^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both  $R^1$  form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

$R^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

$R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

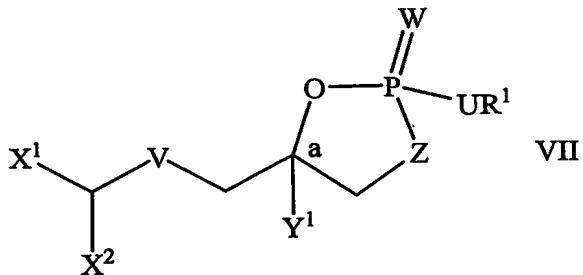
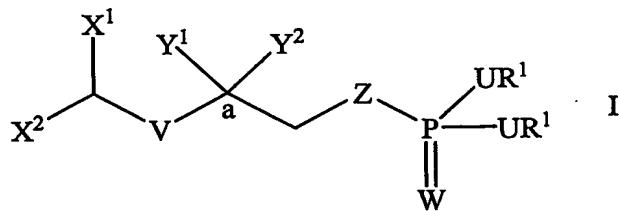
wherein when  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon  $a$  is either substantially R or substantially S,

wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate, and

wherein with formula VII, when  $W$  is oxygen,  $V$  is not present,  $X^1$  and  $Y^1$  are

hydrogen, and  $X^2$  is  $OC(O)R^3$ , then  $Z$  is not  $CH_2$  or oxygen.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein the disease comprises cancer or diabetes.
76. The method of claim 75, wherein when the disease comprises cancer, the cancer comprises ovarian cancer.
77. A method for reducing inflammation or an allergic response in a subject comprising administering to the subject a compound having the formula I or VII or a pharmaceutical composition thereof



wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ;

each  $U$  comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;

$V$  is not present or when  $V$  is present,  $V$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$W$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$Z$  comprises oxygen, sulfur,  $NR^1$ ,  $CH_2$ ,  $CHF$ ,  $CF_2$ , or  $CHOR^2$ ;

each  $R^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both  $R^1$  form a

cyclic or heterocyclic group;

$R^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

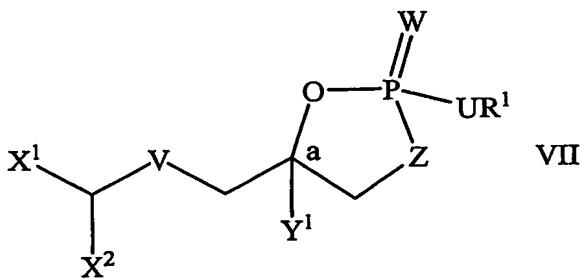
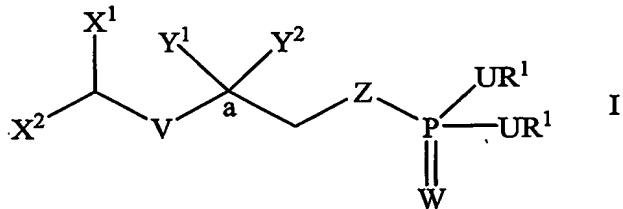
$R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein when  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon a is either substantially R or substantially S, and

wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate.

78. A method for increasing or altering cardiovascular function in a subject comprising administering to the subject a compound having the formula I or VII or a pharmaceutical composition thereof



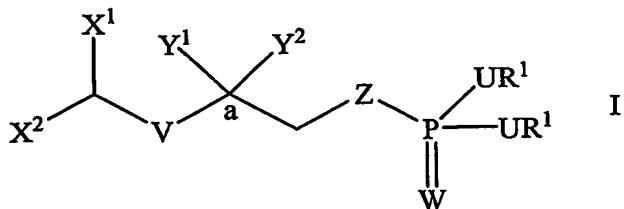
wherein

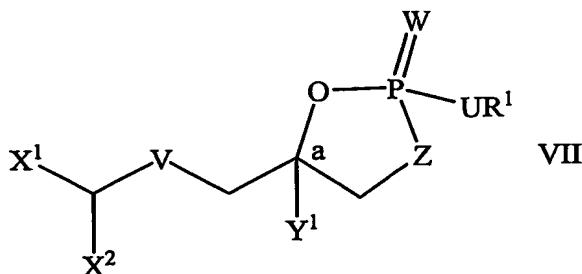
$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,

$\text{OR}^2$ ,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OR}^2$ ,  $\text{OC(O)R}^3$ , or  $\text{NC(O)R}^3$ ;  
 each  $\text{U}$  comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $\text{NR}^1$ ;  
 $\text{V}$  is not present or when  $\text{V}$  is present,  $\text{V}$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;  
 $\text{W}$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;  
 $\text{Z}$  comprises oxygen, sulfur,  $\text{NR}^1$ ,  $\text{CH}_2$ ,  $\text{CHF}$ ,  $\text{CF}_2$ , or  $\text{CHOR}^2$ ;  
 each  $\text{R}^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight  
 chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both  $\text{R}^1$  form a  
 cyclic or heterocyclic group;  
 $\text{R}^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl  
 group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a  
 heteroaryl group or a protecting group;  
 $\text{R}^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_{25}$  alkyl group, a  
 cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl  
 group,

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,  
 wherein when  $\text{Y}^1$  and  $\text{Y}^2$  in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry  
 at carbon  $\text{a}$  is either substantially R or substantially S, and  
 wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-  
 phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate.

79. A method for maintaining or terminating embryonic development in a subject comprising administering to the subject a compound having the formula I or VII or a pharmaceutical composition thereof





wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ;

each  $U$  comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;

$V$  is not present or when  $V$  is present,  $V$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$W$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$Z$  comprises oxygen, sulfur,  $NR^1$ ,  $CH_2$ ,  $CHF$ ,  $CF_2$ , or  $CHOR^2$ ;

each  $R^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both  $R^1$  form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

$R^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

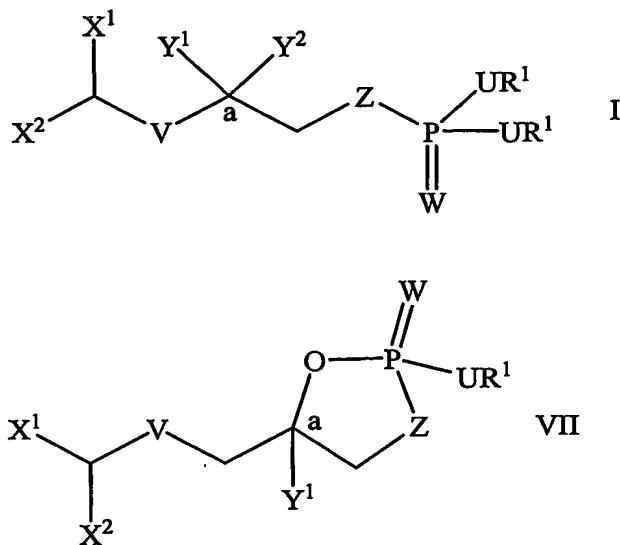
$R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein when  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon a is either substantially R or substantially S, and

wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate.

80. A method for eliciting or inhibiting platelet aggregation in a subject comprising administering to the subject a compound having the formula I or VII or a pharmaceutical composition thereof



wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ;

each U comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;

V is not present or when V is present, V comprises oxygen or sulfur;

W comprises oxygen or sulfur;

Z comprises oxygen, sulfur,  $NR^1$ ,  $CH_2$ ,  $CHF$ ,  $CF_2$ , or  $CHOR^2$ ;

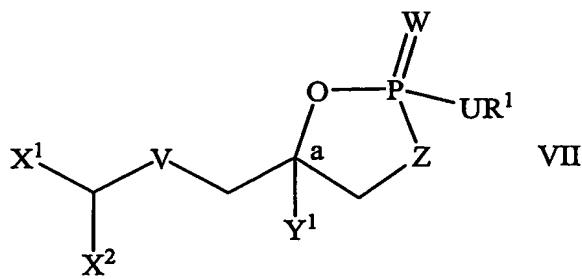
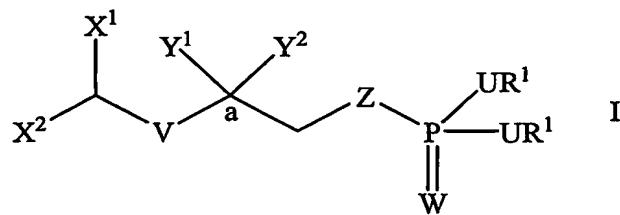
each  $R^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both  $R^1$  form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

$R^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

$R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, wherein when  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon a is either substantially R or substantially S, and wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate.

81. A method for increasing or inhibiting cell growth and proliferation in a culture comprising contacting the cells in the culture with a compound having the formula I or VII or a pharmaceutical composition thereof



wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ; each U comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;  $V$  is not present or when  $V$  is present,  $V$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

W comprises oxygen or sulfur;

Z comprises oxygen, sulfur, NR<sup>1</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub>, CHF, CF<sub>2</sub>, or CHOR<sup>2</sup>;

each R<sup>1</sup> comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both R<sup>1</sup> form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

R<sup>2</sup> comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

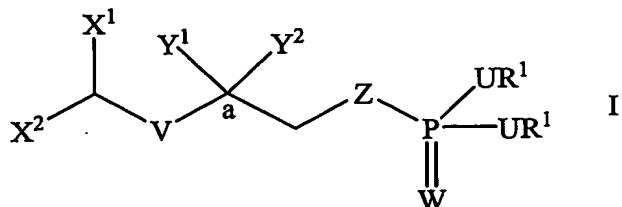
R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

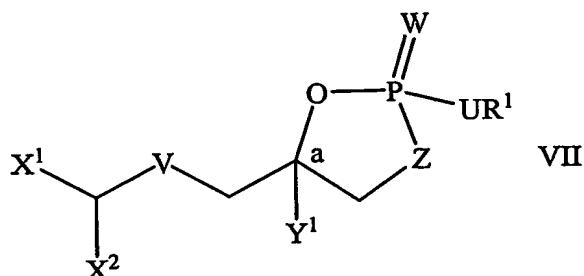
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein when Y<sup>1</sup> and Y<sup>2</sup> in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon a is either substantially R or substantially S, and

wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate.

82. A method of treating or preventing a disease in a subject comprising administering a compound having the formula I or VII or a pharmaceutical composition thereof as a PPAR<sub>γ</sub> agonist





wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ;

each  $U$  comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;

$V$  is not present or when  $V$  is present,  $V$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;  $W$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$Z$  comprises oxygen, sulfur,  $NR^1$ ,  $CH_2$ ,  $CHF$ ,  $CF_2$ , or  $CHOR^2$ ;

each  $R^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both  $R^1$  form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

$R^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

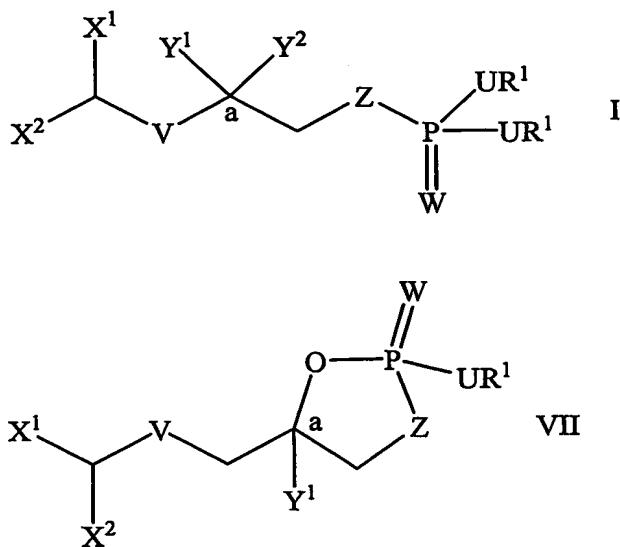
$R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein when  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon  $a$  is either substantially R or substantially S, and

wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate.

83. A method of treating or preventing a disease in a subject comprising administering a compound having the formula I or VII or a pharmaceutical composition thereof to inhibit a lipid phosphatase, lipid kinase, or phospholipase enzyme



wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ;

each  $U$  comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;

$V$  is not present or when  $V$  is present,  $V$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$W$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$Z$  comprises oxygen, sulfur,  $NR^1$ ,  $CH_2$ ,  $CHF$ ,  $CF_2$ , or  $CHOR^2$ ;

each  $R^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both  $R^1$  form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

$R^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a

heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

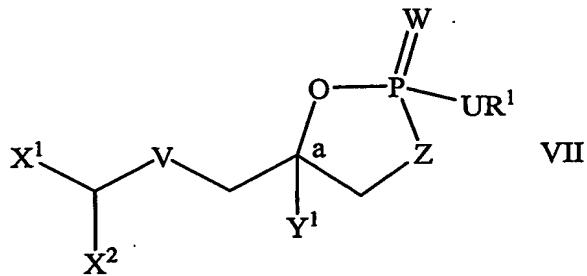
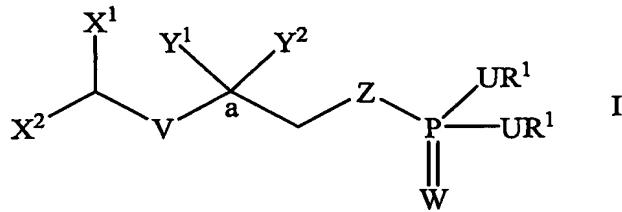
$R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein when  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon a is either substantially R or substantially S, and

wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate.

84. The use of a compound having the formula I or VII or a pharmaceutical composition thereof for targeting the discovery of a drug



wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ;

each U comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;

$V$  is not present or when  $V$  is present,  $V$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

W comprises oxygen or sulfur;

Z comprises oxygen, sulfur, NR<sup>1</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub>, CHF, CF<sub>2</sub>, or CHOR<sup>2</sup>;

each R<sup>1</sup> comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both R<sup>1</sup> form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

R<sup>2</sup> comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

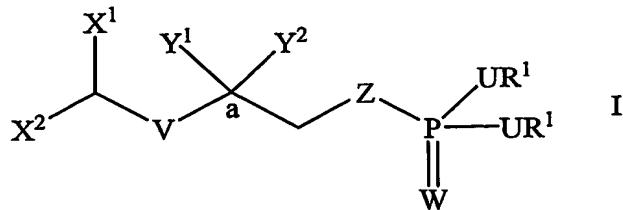
R<sup>3</sup> comprises a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

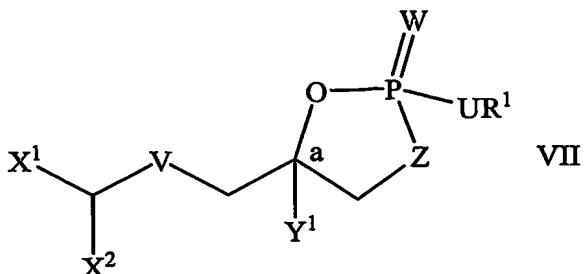
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein when Y<sup>1</sup> and Y<sup>2</sup> in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon a is either substantially R or substantially S, and

wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate.

85. A method for growing or proliferating cells in a culture comprising administering to the cells in the culture a compound having the formula I or VII or a pharmaceutical composition thereof





wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group,  $OR^2$ ,  $OCH_2CH_2OR^2$ ,  $OC(O)R^3$ , or  $NC(O)R^3$ ;

each  $U$  comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or  $NR^1$ ;

$V$  is not present or when  $V$  is present,  $V$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$W$  comprises oxygen or sulfur;

$Z$  comprises oxygen, sulfur,  $NR^1$ ,  $CH_2$ ,  $CHF$ ,  $CF_2$ , or  $CHOR^2$ ;

each  $R^1$  comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both  $R^1$  form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

$R^2$  comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

$R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

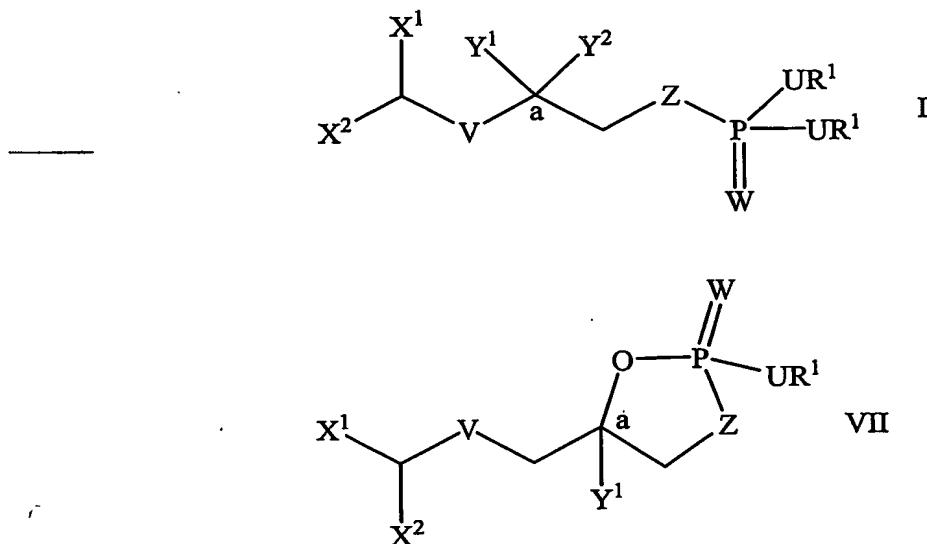
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

wherein when  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon a is either substantially R or substantially S, and

wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate.

86. A method for determining the activity of lysophosphatidic acid or phosphatidic acid, comprising the steps of:

a) measuring the activity of a compound having the formula I or VII



wherein

X<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>2</sup>, Y<sup>1</sup>, and Y<sup>2</sup> comprises, independently, hydrogen, fluorine, a hydroxyl group, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, OR<sup>2</sup>, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>2</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>3</sup>, or NC(O)R<sup>3</sup>;

each U comprises, independently, oxygen, sulfur, or NR<sup>1</sup>;

V is not present or when V is present, V comprises oxygen or sulfur;

W comprises oxygen or sulfur;

Z comprises oxygen, sulfur, NR<sup>1</sup>, CH<sub>2</sub>, CHF, CF<sub>2</sub>, or CHOR<sup>2</sup>;

each R<sup>1</sup> comprises, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cationic counterion, or both R<sup>1</sup> form a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

R<sup>2</sup> comprises hydrogen, a branched or straight chain C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>25</sub> alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or a protecting group;

$R^3$  comprises a branched or straight chain  $C_1$  to  $C_{25}$  alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,  
wherein when  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  in formula I are different groups, the stereochemistry at carbon a is either substantially R or substantially S, and

wherein the compound having the formula I is not 1-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate and 2-acyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-phosphate; and

- b) measuring the same activity of lysophosphatidic acid or phosphatidic acid.

87. The method of claim 86, wherein the method comprises identifying agonists or antagonists of lysophosphatidic acid binding to or activating lysophosphatidic acid receptors of the edg class in a cell.
88. The method of claim 86, wherein the method comprises identifying agonists or antagonists of lysophosphatidic acid binding to or activating lysophosphatidic acid receptors of the non-edg class in a cell.